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From the Reference Desk

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An Interview At Schoenhof's from page 58

Leyenson and his colleagues at **Schoenhof's**. The inventory they create is housed in tall rows of metal shelving that fill about half the space in the distribution center. The languages are arranged alphabetically. Walk up and down the aisles to feel like a piece in a geography board game... Chinese, Dutch, Egyptian... Gaelic Proverbs... Indonesian Readings. In the 'P' section, there's *1001 Persian Proverbs*, followed by *Beginner's Persian*, *Colloquial Persian*, *A Grammar of Contemporary Persian*, *Modern Persian: Intermediate Level*, *Concise English-Persian Dictionary*, *Shorter Persian-English Dictionary*, and more Persian after that, followed after awhile by *A Grammar of the Phoenician Language*, and few rows down, by *301 Polish Verbs*.

Leyenson doesn't know of any other work that would give him the freedom to create and maintain such an "extraordinary assemblage" of books. **Shiplova** enjoys the regular custom-

ers, for whom the **Schoenhof's** books are "objects of lust. There is no question of selling something to somebody. It's purely giving water to the thirsty." **Johnson** likes the academic atmosphere of the store and the cosmopolitan nature of the clientele. **Cianfarini** thinks of the store as a **Cambridge** cultural institution in its own right, not as just another business. In fact if there's a comparable store in the United States—or anywhere in the world—no one at **Schoenhof's** can think of it.

Quarterly **Schoenhof's** "New Arrivals" lists are now posted on the YBP Library Services Website (www.ybp.com). Titles **Schoenhof's** booksellers believe are particularly notable are marked with an 'S.' Each entry links through the title line to a full description on the **Schoenhof's** Website (www.schoenhofs.com), and through the ISBN to **YBP's** **GOBI**. Library orders for **Schoenhof's** titles placed with **YBP** will be billed and shipped by **YBP**, consolidated with other **YBP** orders the library has placed. 

From the Reference Desk

by **Tom Gilson** (Head, Reference Services, Robert Scott Small Library, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424; Phone: 843-953-8014; Fax: 843-953-8019) <gilsont@cofc.edu>

The Enlightenment, arguably the most vibrant era of Western thought and social change, has long deserved a top-notch encyclopedia of its own. Now it has one. Advertised as a major publishing event, **Oxford's** *Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment* (2003, 0195104307, \$ 495) proves worthy of the hype with over 700 thoroughly researched articles on a broad array of topics.

As defined by this encyclopedia, the Enlightenment covers 1670 through the early 1800s and is presented as a diverse and multidimensional era. The articles in this reference point to the Enlightenment as a time of incredible change that challenged authority in all of its guises, and forever altered the social, moral, scientific and political landscape. However, the Enlightenment is also placed in context. It is portrayed as an outgrowth of ideas generated in the preceding century, not as an abrupt break with the past.

A substantial number of entries are biographies and include the famous like **Burke**, **Jefferson** and **Voltaire**, as well as the lesser known like Josiah Wedgwood and Pablo de Olavide. These sketches also range from influential 20th century scholars like **Michel Foucault** to the 18th century encyclopedist, **Denis Diderot**. There are articles on broad themes like economic thought, human nature, science and the arts, as well as on more specific topics like mercantilism, free will, optics and the theater. There are also geographic entries for major cities like Paris and London, as well as secondary ones like Philadelphia and Berlin. In addition, there are articles describing the Enlightenment as it influenced individual nations, as well as entries that discuss other regions of

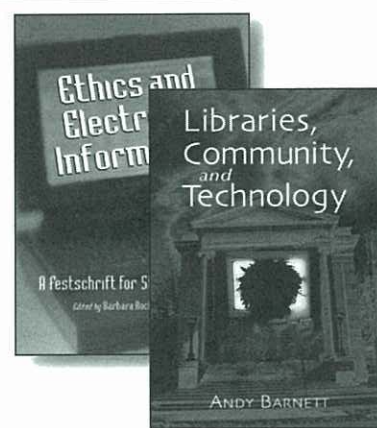
the world like Asia and North Africa, in light of Western contact and perception.

For the most part, published scholars are responsible for writing the essays and a selective bibliography is included with each article. All of the articles are cross-referenced to related entries and there is a very useful topical outline. For example, researchers interested in the development of publishing during the Enlightenment can find a wealth of articles under headings like the Book, Authors and Copyright, Reading Publics, and Journals, Subscriptions, Re-editions and Translations. For specific references there is a comprehensive and thorough general index.

The *Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment* is a natural purchase for academic libraries. Editor Alan Charles Kors and his contributors have produced an encyclopedia that does justice to the Age of Enlightenment and all its complexities. It is far more thorough than **Facts on File's** one volume encyclopedia of the same title published in 1996 (OP), and it offers a different approach from the **Fitzroy Dearborn's** translation of **Michel Delon's** *Dictionnaire europ, en des LumiSres*, which contains no biographical sketches. (English title: *Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment*, 2001, 157958246X, \$285)

If your library is like ours, you can always use another historical atlas. Although there are already a number of good ones to choose from, another title you can add to the list is the recent *Atlas of World History* (2002, 019521921X,

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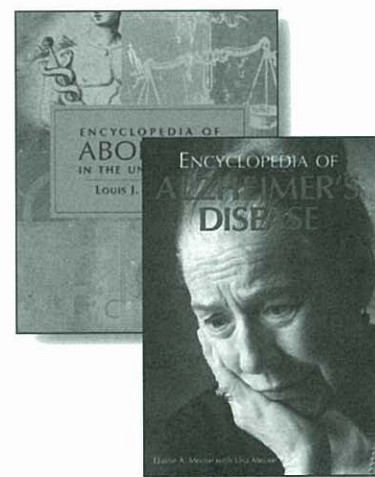
Ethics and Electronic Information

A Festschrift for Stephen Almagno

Edited by Barbara Rockenbach and Tom Mendina. 215pp., 2003, \$39.95 softcover (7 × 10), tables, notes, bibliographies, index, ISBN 0-7864-1409-X.

Libraries, Community, and Technology

Andy Barnett. 168pp., 2002, \$35 softcover (7 × 10), bibliography, index, ISBN 0-7864-1379-4.



Encyclopedia of Abortion in the United States

Louis J. Palmer, Jr. 428pp., 2002, \$75 hardcover (8½ × 11), 194 graphs and illustrations, bibliography, index, ISBN 0-7864-1386-7.

Encyclopedia of Alzheimer's Disease

Elaine A. Moore with Lisa Moore. Illustrated by Marvin G. Miller. 413pp., 2003, \$55 hardcover (7 × 10), photographs, bibliography, index, ISBN 0-7864-1438-3.



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\$45). Edited by **Patrick O'Brien** and published by **Oxford**, this book has been divided into 5 broad historic eras, the ancient world, the medieval world, the early modern world, the age of revolutions and the twentieth century. The *Atlas* uses 450 color maps to illustrate geopolitical, economic, religious, cultural, environmental and technological changes over 12,000 years of human history. Of course, the maps are what most users will want from this book, and for the most part, they will not be disappointed. The maps are clear and colorful, illustrating a diversity of subjects from the provinces of the Aztec empire, to the growth of industry in Europe, to water pollution since the 1960s. Many readers will find the text as valuable as the maps. It is substantial and nicely complements and clarifies the developments and changes illustrated by the maps. The text is also cross-referenced to pages containing maps of related interest. This *Atlas* is called the "concise edition" and some may find the maps small. However, the vast majority of them are sized so that they can be easily copied or scanned, a definite plus. Aside from its broad chronological arrangement, this reference is thoroughly indexed and has a selected bibliography. Another positive is the price. At \$45, the *Atlas of World History* is a good investment for libraries, and for individual readers with need for such a resource.

Another helpful chronology has just crossed my desk. **Routledge's Chronological History of U.S. Foreign Relations** (2002, 0415939143 \$295) is in its second edition. First released by **Garland** in 1991, this updated three-volume set offers a comprehensive, factual outline of U.S. foreign "entanglements" stretching from 1776 through 2000. As with most good chronologies, this reference offers more than a mere list of dates and events. Each event is placed in historical context with brief explanations ranging in length from a couple of paragraphs to, in a few instances, a page or more. Author **Lester H. Brune** uses what he calls a dual entry structure, which simply stated means that each entry consists of "a short heading describing the event,

and then a longer explanation of it." Further, events that occur in foreign countries that impact the U.S. are printed in italics for easy identification. The entries are also cross-referenced by date so that researchers can often follow an event to its resolution. From minor political appointments, treaties and conventions, to world shattering military actions, this three-volume set offers comprehensive coverage. Readers will find this chronology useful in getting a sense of the U.S. foreign relations over a set period of time, as well as becoming familiar with an individual event. Not only can you discover when **Saddam Hussein** invaded Kuwait (Aug. 2, 1990), you can trace events from the U.S.'s initial condemnation, through the military response of the Gulf War, to the Iraqi generals signing the cease-fire terms (March 3, 1991). Some 35 maps and 300 black and white photos illustrate the text and there is a selected bibliography of reference and general works, as well as an appendix providing biographical sketches of U.S. Secretaries of State from **Robert Livingston** in 1781, to **Madeline Albright** in 2001. A thorough index rounds out the set and contains references to specific page numbers, as well as a volume key highlighting each volume's pagination.

Overall, *Chronological History of U.S. Foreign Relations* is a second edition that **Routledge** can be proud of. It has been handsomely produced and fully updated for use by students and scholars alike. In fact, the interested lay reader will also find it of value, so public, as well as academic libraries, will want to give this set full consideration.

Speaking of public libraries, many of their patrons will be interested in **ABC-CLIO's The Skeptic Encyclopedia of Pseudoscience** (2002, 1576076539, \$185). This is a 2-volume set with an attitude. What kind of attitude? You guessed it, a skeptical one. Editor **Michael Shermer** and his contributors discuss a variety of pseudoscientific practices and beliefs in light of recent research findings and raise as many questions as they offer answers. The encyclopedia is divided into five sections. The first is a alphabetical listing of articles on specific subjects ranging from alien abduction to witchcraft and from the Shroud of Turin to crop circles. The second section consists of investigations originally published in *Skeptic Magazine* into things like acupuncture, homeopathy and thought field therapy, as well as discussions of broader issues like immortality, and science and its myths. The third is a section of case studies also taken from *Skeptic Magazine* which focus on topics ranging from holistic medicine to the ancient astronauts to police psychics. The fourth section consists of "for and against" essays that cover issues like race and IQ, race and sports, evolutionary psychology, memes and the nature of science itself. The last section contains his-

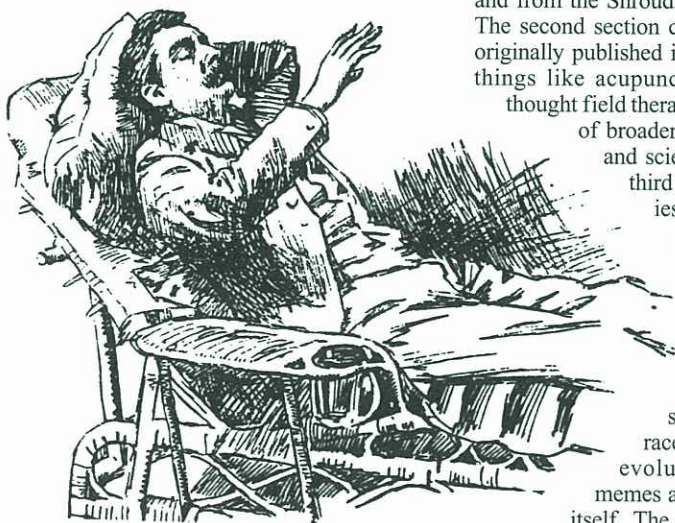
torical documents. Many of the essays in the first two sections are useful discussions in which both claims and criticisms are given ample space. A number of these articles also help debunk practices like dowsing and objects like laundry balls, which claim to wash clothes without detergent. In addition, there are those that address issues like near death experiences and the effects of meditation where there is a variety of evidence open to diverse interpretation. While the case studies and the "for and against" discussions in sections 3 and 4 are interesting in themselves, their link to the first two sections is not obvious, and could be more clearly defined. The final historical document section consists of only five documents and should have been beefed up, or dropped. However, in spite of these criticisms, the treatment afforded the topics covered in this encyclopedia is serious. Each of the articles is documented, providing references to the arguments made in the text. The contributors are fully identified and many are academics with advanced degrees.

The Skeptic Encyclopedia of Pseudoscience is one of those sets in which the fascination value may equal its reference use. It deals with a number of controversial topics where there are as many strongly held opinions and beliefs as there are verified facts. But without a doubt, many people are captivated with the issues discussed in this work. Some libraries may find the price a bit steep for a reference where at least half of the content is reprinted from *Skeptic Magazine*. But for those libraries where interest in such topics is high, it may be worth it.

Wiley has just published a 3-volume encyclopedia that libraries supporting both agricultural and environmental studies programs will want. The *Encyclopedia of Agrochemicals* (2003, 047126363X, \$995) is edited by **Jack R. Plimmer** and contains signed contributions from government and industry scientists, as well as academics. The emphasis is on the use of chemicals to control pests like weeds, insects and fungi, as well as the use of chemical fertilizers to enhance yield. A lot of space is given to the properties and processes of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides, as well as to the techniques employed for both their analysis and their use. Naturally, the impacts of these agrochemicals are also covered. Both pros and cons are discussed. The benefits of these agrochemicals like the increased food supply and the indirect restriction of human diseases like malaria and dengue fever are highlighted. But so are the environmental negatives like land, water and food contamination, toxicity for humans and other species and the development of resistant strains of plants and insects. Alternative strategies like genetic engineering and the impacts of biotechnology are thoroughly covered as are the role of regulations and government agencies.

In true **Wiley** fashion, the *Encyclopedia of Agrochemicals* is heavy on science and scholarship and the text is well illustrated. A variety of charts, tables, diagrams, and chemical formulas enhance and clarify the content. Each entry is signed and many have significant bib-

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liographies. Obviously not intended for the home gardener, this set has a far more specialized audience in mind. Practicing scientists, both in industry and government agencies, as well as advanced undergraduates and graduates students, along with their professors, are the main targets for this reference.

Libraries should also keep in mind that the *Encyclopedia of Agrochemicals*, as well as a number of other Wiley titles, are available in online versions. Pricing depends on a number of factors as the following notice from their Website indicates. "Institutional customers may license the online version of this reference work for access on an annual basis. Pricing options for online access depend on the type of institution, the user population, and the collection of Wiley InterScience products the customer licenses." For more information, point your browser to <http://www.mrw.interscience.wiley.com/eoa/>.

The second edition of Greenwood Press' *Banned in the USA* (2002, 0313311668, \$54.95) has recently been published. Subtitled *A Reference Guide to Book Censorship in Schools and Public Libraries*, this is a book that librarians may want on their personal, as well as library shelves. Author Herbert N. Foerstel revises and expands his 1994 edition to report recent evidence of book banning and censorship in America's libraries. He updates his survey of individual book banning incidences in the first chapter and devotes his second chapter to trends in the law on book banning and its expansion into the world of the Internet and publishing in general. The third chapter updates the interview with banned authors contained in the first edition and adds discussion with David Guterson and Jan Slepian. But still, the most fascinating chapter is the one that provides a new list of the "most frequently banned and challenged books, 1996-2000." Topping this list is a new collective entry. Self-appointed book censors have targeted J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series most often in recent years. Second on the list is the American classic by Mark Twain, the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. In addition, works by authors as diverse as Maya Angelou, Harper Lee, Aldous Huxley and the young adult writer, Robert Cormier have raised the ire of censors. However, Foerstel provides far more than a rank order list of books in this section. He tells the stories behind the banning of each book, as well as listing selected challenges to them from 1996 through 2000.


Banned in the USA offers a cautionary tale. The individuals and groups that challenge these books are not to be laughed at. They are earnest and committed, and are often adept at proceeding "under formal, bureaucratic cover." Make no mistake the people who challenge books have an impact.

Reading through Foerstel's book makes this obvious. Whether in reference or circulation, *Banned in the USA* is a book that most libraries should own.

With *The Louisiana Purchase: A Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia* (2002, 157607188X, \$99.) historian Junius P. Rodriguez adds to the other solid works he has edited for ABC-CLIO. Rodriguez is also responsible for the *Historical Encyclopedia of World Slavery*, (1997, 0874368855, Out of stock, but available used from Amazon) and its later companion volume, the *Chronology of World Slavery* (2001, 1576074714, \$110).

This new volume may sound narrow in focus but titles can be deceiving. This encyclopedia includes information about more than the Louisiana Purchase. By discussing later events and historical figures affected by Jefferson's deal with Napoleon, it literally covers the opening of the West. As one looks through the entries in this book, it is obvious

that the history of the early 1800s was in a large part prompted by the Louisiana Purchase. The Lewis and Clark Expedition would have been unnecessary, the opening of the Santa Fe and Oregon trails unlikely, and the settlement of 15 Western states far different without the Louisiana Purchase. It was also the first step in the destruction of Native American cultures, the depletion of countless natural resources and animal species and the pollution of wild and pristine rivers. Rodriguez argues in his introduction that the Louisiana Purchase enabled many of the transformations that created our modern world. In short, a reference work on such a seminal event in our history is hardly narrow in focus.

Depending on individual needs and available funds, *The Louisiana Purchase: A Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia* could find a home in either reference or circulating collections. It is worthy of consideration by high school, public and undergraduate libraries. 



Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

by Debbie Vaughn (Reference Librarian, College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

Column Editor's Note:

In the wake of global unrest, it is of utmost importance for people to have at least a modicum of knowledge—however brief—regarding the world's diverse cultures, their backgrounds, and their often-disparate ways of life. How can we form an all-encompassing opinion about the surmounting tension between Arab populations and Western tradition without understanding the history that lies beneath? And when we consider that history, must not we also explore the backgrounds and customs of the multitude of Middle Eastern minorities? Similarly, when we consider al Qaeda and Af-

ghanistan, is it not consequential also to consider the relationship among Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India?

Of course, it is impossible to read up on all global cultures; simply, there are not enough hours in the days to become as worldly as we would all like to turn out to be. Scanning even a few of the titles examined in this month's column will indeed make us a smidgen more educated, though. Anything done to better understand a different point of view or way of life is a step on the path of enlightenment.

A special thanks is extended to Michael Litchfield and Jared Seay, reviewers for this month's column. Happy reading everyone! —DV

Cohen, Jere. *Protestantism and Capitalism: The Mechanics of Influence*. New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 2002. 0202306720. 296 pages. \$26.95.

Reviewed by Michael Litchfield
(Charleston Conference Coordinator) <libconf@cofc.edu>

Protestantism and Capitalism: The Mechanics of Influence is a volume in Aldine de Gruyter's *Sociology and Economics: Controversy and Integration* series. The book is not really about Protestantism; passing mention is made of Lutheranism and Methodism, but the book is more concerned specifically with the Puritan mores that evolved into mod-

ern-day capitalism. Jere Cohen examines Max Weber's argument that English Puritan heritage evolved into modern capitalism in a methodical and unbiased manner, relying heavily on primary texts, including the writings and sermons of Puritan ministers and the diaries of two very different Puritan merchants.

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